

**<http://l3.edc.org/newsroom/press-releases/first-community-mobile-library-launch-gicumbi>
First community mobile library to launch in Gicumbi**

Kigali, Rwanda – Tuesday, December 4, 2012

Cyuru in Gicumbi district will be the first community to host a USAID-funded Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative Community Mobile Library. The Rwanda Education Board (REB), the L3 Initiative, the Peace Corps, and the Cyuru community will officially inaugurate the library in a national launch event on December 10th. The event will be held in Cyuru under the theme "Let's read! A person who doesn't read is like a field left untilled."

At the event, community members will give testimonies, act in short theater skits, and celebrate the children who participated in a drawing and writing competition, all concerning the day's theme. After remarks from Gicumbi district, the partners involved, and REB, all participants will be invited to attend the library exhibition.

"The Mobile Library has many different books," said Cyuru library committee leader Bosco Nshimiyimana. "[It] exposes them to a lot of different ideas that they wouldn't have before."

The books will be exhibited in three booths for children, teenagers, and adults. Each booth will include a variety of levels and genres of books to suit all abilities and interests, including classic European literature, an African writer's series, and locally-authored storybooks. All books were critically reviewed and selected by the L3 initiative as well as classified according to reading level. Local teachers will be present to guide community members in selecting books appropriately and to assist them with reading as necessary.

According to Bosco Nshimiyimana, the library will be an opportunity for parents to be involved in their children's learning. "If the mobile library is there in our *umudugudu*, will help parents to have books for children," he said. "They come to the library with their children."

Research shows that children earn higher grades and are far less likely to drop out of school when their parents are involved. The library contains books for children and adults so that parents, teachers, older siblings, and the community as a whole can model the habit of reading for younger children.

"Parents should be involved in the use of their children's library by availing quality time for guiding and supervising the reading of their children," said REB Director General Dr. John Rutayisire. "There is no better investment for a parent than investing in children's future so that they can read today in order for them to lead tomorrow."

By 2016, at least 80 of these libraries will be shared by a number of rural communities. Peace Corps volunteers have already begun working with nine by identifying key community members to form committees in order to make the libraries a community-led effort.

